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a tassel not in the books. I have found two which Prof. Wood thinks are new, viz.: an *Asclepias*, one foot high, with a single nodding umbel, and a *Rosa*, with lone stem quite prickly; leaflets, about nine, and flowers about ten, and fruit mostly conical."

Prof. Wood proposes to name these plants after their discoverer as a recognition of his long and unrewarded service in this department of science. Prof. Carruth has also discovered some undetermined plants which may prove to be new to science. Other members of the Academy have been laboring faithfully in their respective departments, the fruits of which appeared abundantly at the annual meeting.

The need of a more thorough scientific survey of the State is being felt in various ways by the people. The State, for example, possesses the most ample water powers along its numerous streams for manufacturing purposes. Could these be determined by a competent engineer, and utilized, it would result in an immense saving to the State. Science thus applied to the practical affairs of life yields rich returns to any people.

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## PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

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The sixth annual meeting of the Society was held in the University building, at Lawrence, on September 8th and 9th, 1873, and was largely attended by the scientific men of the State. The papers read before the Society were of unusual merit, and the proceedings elicited a very general discussion in the public journals. There was such a pressure of papers and business before the Society, that the President suggested the necessity of resolving it into sections, as is customary in larger scientific associations, so that all the papers presented could be reap.

The following transactions of the Society are of public interest:

The subject of auxiliary societies was introduced, discussed and approved, and a committee composed of F. H. Snow, B. F. Mudge and F. E. Stimpson, was appointed on the same. The Topeka Scientific Institute was admitted as an auxiliary society.

The attention of the Society was called to the subject of standard weights and measures for Kansas, and the following resolution was adopted:

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to consider the question of standard weights and measures for the State, and to report some recommendations to the Legislature of the State during the next session — reporting as a committee of this Academy, F. W. Bardwell, F. E. Stimpson, and Robert J. Brown."

The following papers were read :

- On the Action of Lime on Soils, by Miss Jennie Detmers.
- On traces of the Mound Builders in Kansas, by B. F. Mudge.
- On Meteors between the sixth and thirteenth of August, by John Fraser.
- On Tornadoes, by John D. Parker.
- On the Composition of Comet's Tails, by F. W. Bardwell.
- On our Public Works, by William Tweeddale.
- On the Lepidoptera of Kansas, by F. H. Snow. (This paper was illustrated by a large collection of butterflies and moths, very neatly mounted in trays.)
- On Explosive Mixtures, by F. E. Stimpson.
- On Fossil Footprints in Osage county, by B. F. Mudge.
- On the Coleoptera of Kansas, by Edwin A. Popenoe.
- On the Climate of Kansas, by F. H. Snow.

The following public lectures were delivered:

- On Darwinism, by Peter McVicar, D. D.
- On John Dalton, or the Quaker Man of Science, by Charles Reynolds, D. D.

The following officers were elected for the current year :

President, Frank H. Snow ; Vice-Presidents, John A. Banfield, John D. Parker  
Secretary, John Wherrell ; Treasurer, Robert J. Brown ; Curators, Frank H. Snow, B. F. Mudge, and Edwin A. Popenoe.

The following commissions were confirmed for the current year:

- Geology — B. F. Mudge.
- Ornithology — F. H. Snow.
- Entomology — F. H. Snow, Edwin A. Popenoe.
- Language — D. H. Robinson, J. H. Lee.
- Engineering — F. W. Bardwell.
- Technology — F. E. Stimpson.
- Astronomy — John Fraser.
- Meteorology — John D. Parker.
- Botany — J. H. Carruth, John Wherrell, F. H. Snow.
- Mineralogy — W. K. Kedzie.
- Chemistry — William H. Saunders.

Society adjourned to meet Monday evening, September 7, 1874,  
at Topeka.

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## SYNOPSIS OF PAPERS.

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### TRACES OF THE MOUND BUILDERS IN KANSAS.

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BY B. F. MUDGE.

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Few traces of the old mound builders are found after passing fifty miles west of the Mississippi river. No mounds have been found in Kansas, and the few traces of their villages are very obscure. The object of this paper is to draw attention to the subject, that others may be induced to notice and record any fact within the